

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:NCLEDSKY/AD

APPROVED BY P - MR. HABIB

EUR:AAHARTMAN

S/S- MR. BRIDGES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217851

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, UN

SUBJECT: GREEK AMBASSADOR'S SEPTEMBER 1 CALL ON UNDER
SECRETARY HABIB

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS CALLED ON UNDER SECRETARY
HABIB SEPTEMBER 1 WITH INTENTION OF STIMULATING GREATER US
EFFORTS TO RESOLVE CURRENT GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS, INCLUD-
ING CYPRUS. ALEXANDRAKIS BEGAN BY NOTING RECENT TELEGRAM
FROM ATHENS HAD REPORTED SISMİK HAD STARTED FOURTH PHASE
OF OPERATIONS WITH AN UNKNOWN COURSE (ALEXANDRAKIS SEEMED
CLEARLY UNINFORMED OF TURKISH ANNOUNCEMENT OF LATEST SISMİK
PROGRAM). ALEXANDRAKIS ALSO ALLUDED TO LAST WEEK'S DECLARA-
TION BY DEMIREL THAT GREECE MUST FIRST RESCIND ITS PRESEN-
TATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE BEFORE AEGEAN
MEETINGS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY COULD TAKE PLACE. HE
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SUGGESTED THAT THIS ALL POINTED TO THE USUAL TURKISH INTRAN-

SIGENCE AND SAID THAT WHAT WAS NEEDED WAS GREATER US INVOLVEMENT TO INSURE THAT THE RESULTS OF THE NEW YORK EFFORTS WERE NOT WASTED.

2. HABIB REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SISMIK HAD SET SAIL FROM IZMIR BUT WONDERED WHETHER THIS HAD NOT BEEN SUBJECT OF GREEK-TURKISH CONVERSATION SINCE AUGUST 25. HE NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT NEITHER THE GREEK

NOR THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD INFORMED US OF WHAT FOLLOW-UP THERE HAD BEEN TO THE BITSIOS-CAGLAYANGIL MEETINGS IN NEW YORK. HAD AMBASSADOR CARAYANNIS MET WITH TEZEL? WAS THE MEETING BETWEEN BITSIOS AND CAGLAYANGIL TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 10 AND 14?

3. ALEXANDRAKIS SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT CONTACT BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH OFFICIALS SINCE THE NEW YORK MEETING ON AUGUST 25, AND INDEED HAD HOPED TO OBTAIN SUCH INFORMATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT. TURNING TO A NEW SUBJECT, ALEXANDRAKIS SAID THAT HE HAD NOTICED A GROWING GAP BETWEEN STATED US POLICY AND OUR ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT IT. DESPITE OUR EVIDENT DESIRE FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN THE AEGEAN AND PROGRESS ON CYPRUS, WE SEEMED ALWAYS TO BE IGNORING TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE. IN MOST SITUATIONS WE CONTINUALLY ADJUSTED OUR POSITIONS TO ACCOMMODATE PERSISTENT TURKISH "VETOS." THE TURKS HAD EMBARKED ON AN AGGRESSIVE POLICY LINE IN CYPRUS. THEY HAD ESTABLISHED AN AEGEAN ARMY WITH LANDING CRAFT POISED ACROSS FROM THE GREEK ISLANDS. DEMIREL AND OTHER TURKISH LEADERS HAD ALL MADE AGGRESSIVE STATEMENTS. IN 1974 THE SITUATION GOT OUT OF HAND ON CYPRUS. THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER THERE WOULD BE A DUPLICATION OF THIS SITUATION IN THE AEGEAN IN 1976.

4. HABIB REPLIED THAT WE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE DEVELOPMENTS IN NEW YORK AND HAD HOPED A NEGOTIATING PROCESS HAD BEEN BEGUN WHICH WOULD LEAD TO A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE AEGEAN ISSUE. THIS REMAINED OUR HOPE. WHAT WAS NEEDED ON BOTH SIDES WAS RESTRAINT AND GOOD WILL. IT WAS OUR VIEW THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BEGIN WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WITH RESPECT TO CYPRUS, CONFIDENTIAL

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HABIB NOTED THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE SEEING SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM IN NEW YORK ON SEPTEMBER 2. SHOULD CYPRUS COME UP DURING THIS CONVERSATION, THE SECRETARY INTENDED TO DETERMINE IN WHAT DIRECTION WALDHEIM THOUGHT MOVEMENT WAS POSSIBLE, AND THEN OFFER HIM OUR ASSISTANCE. IN THIS CONNECTION THE PRINCIPLES THE SECRETARY ENUNCIATED LAST SEPTEMBER BEFORE THE UNGA STILL REPRESENTED THE BASIC US POSITION, AND THERE MIGHT BE WAYS IN WHICH WE COULD USE

THEM TO ADVANCE THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

ROBINSON

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